episcopal church

The Diocese of Pennsylvania

CHURCH HOUSE
Suite 1600, 1700 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
LOcust 7-6650

THE RT. REV. LYMAN C. OGILBY

July, 1974

To the members of the Diocese of Pennsylvania:

It is most important that I convey this message to you. I have been apprised that several bishops of the Episcopal Church intend to ordain several women deacons to the priesthood. Although I have supported the ordination of women to the priesthood and to the episcopate, particularly in the House of Bishops, and although I am persuaded that some of the current structures and canonical provisions of the Episcopal Church are outmoded, after much prayerful consideration -- graced I trust by the Holy Spirit -- and deeply conscious of my responsibilities as chief pastor of this jurisdiction, I have come to this position:

(1) I support the Christian conscience of the persons projecting this ordination.

(2) I am persuaded that this projected ordination will be theologically valid, though irregular in terms of the current ecclesiastical polity and structures of the Episcopal Church.

(3) I will not participate in this projected ordination as I do not believe this is the way God would have me proceed with this cause at this time.

(4) I have not given consent to or approval for having this projected ordination in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

I pray for you all, as I know you pray for me.

Faithfully, in the love of Christ,

Lyman C. Ogilby

Bishop of Pennsylvania

LCO/jj